

The essence of all I do is bringing stories to life . . .

Undoubtedly the many hours spent with my grandparents in their ladies' wear store was formative. I take delight in carrying on their inspiration of beautiful craftsmanship to enhance and celebrate life. I interact with the world in many ways: as a professional artist, educator, volunteer, mentor, family member, and active citizen.

A strong academic background, extensive design training, a repertoire of techniques, and enormous curiosity enable me to respond creatively to a variety of technical, architectural, personalized and conceptual challenges.

Beginning in 2013 I have spearheaded Torah Stitch By Stitch, an amazing project of education and engagement involving [so far] over 1600 people of all faiths in 22 countries who are cross-stitching the Torah in Hebrew. Please visit our website: torahstitchbystitch.org.

Selected commissions

- Ark gates and tapestries for Beth Shalom of the **Blue Hills, Milton MA** / 2015-16
- "From Generation to Generation" Series of Holy Day textiles for **Beth Ezekiel Congregation, Owen Sound ON** / 2014
- Set of three Holy Day Torah mantles and ark curtain for **Temple Israel, Ottawa ON** / 2011-12
- Set of 4 Shabbat mantles and 4 Holy Day mantles for **Mitzpeh Congregation, Chattanooga TN** / 2010
- Series of Ark tapestries for **Congregation Shaare Torah, Gaithersburg MD** / 2010
- Ark curtain for **Temple of Universal Judaism, New York NY** / 2009
- Set of 5 Holy Day Torah mantles for **Temple Israel, Long Beach CA** / 2009
- Memorial mantle for **East End Temple, New York NY**; beaded crown and breastplate by Dorothy Ross / 2007
- Design coordination, "Liberal Judaism" sculptural tapestry, and two Torah mantles for **Golomb Chapel, Union of Reform Judaism, New York NY** / 2005-06
- "Seven Species", two sets of 7 Torah mantles for **Temple Anshe Sholom, Hamilton ON** / 2005
- "Light Shining in Darkness" tapestry for **Church of St. John The Evangelist, Port Hope ON** / 2004
- 20' high ark gates for **B'nai Israel Congregation, Boca Raton FL** / 2002
- Ark curtain and Torah table cover for **Congregation Anshei Israel, Tucson, AZ** / 2001
- Building typography and ark gates for **Adat Shalom, Washington DC** / 2001
- "From Earth To Heaven", sculptural tapestry for lobby of **Sinai Temple, Springfield MA** / 2000
- Suite of ark curtains, tapestry, mantles, pulpit covers, and wedding canopy for **The Village Shul, Toronto ON**, commissioned by Petroff Partnerships Architects / 1999-2001
- Set of 14 Torah mantles for **Congregation Beth Israel, Northfield NJ** / 1999
- Ark gates for **Temple Shalom, Waterloo ON** / 1997
- Ark gates, tapestry and Torah mantles for **Genesis, a shared church and temple, Ann Arbor MI** / 1993-6
- Wedding canopy for **Temple Beth Israel, Birmingham MI** / 1991
- Wedding canopy for **Congregation Beth Israel, Margate NJ** / 1989
- Wedding canopy for **Temple Emanu-El, Toronto ON** / 1982
- 3000 sq. ft of window panels for **McDonalds Toronto ON**; with Bulow Fabrics and Jerome Markson Architects / 1985
- "Space Warp 6" lobby installation commissioned by Stone & Kohn Architects for **The Cooperators Insurance Company** / 1980
- Bespoke prayer shawls for numerous clergy and lay people throughout **Canada, US and Israel** / since 1971

Selected exhibitions

- **Jewish Culture: Arts and Tradition**, Decatur Area Arts Council, Decatur IL / 2012
- **Under the Jerusalem Sky**, Nikola Rukaj Gallery, Toronto ON / 2011
- **Provocative Textiles**, Museum of Hebrew Union College, New York NY / 2010-11
- **Honest Threads**, exhibit at Honest Ed's by Koffler Gallery, Toronto ON / 2009
- **Editions**, New Gallery, Toronto ON / 2007
- **Geniza Project**, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto ON / 2006
- **Pomegranate** exhibit Kansas City KS / 2004
- **Portfolio of Makers**, Ontario Crafts Council Gallery, Toronto ON / 2003
- From the Four Corners for **Gift of Friendship** exhibition, Toronto and Shanghai; with Laya Crust / 2002
- **Judging the Book by Its Cover**, Spertus Museum, Chicago IL / 2001
- Hockey Sweater Moose for **Toronto Mooseum** project; with Susan Brown / 2000
- **Women Whose Lives Span the Century**, invitational exhibit organized by the Boston Women's Archives / 1998
- **Miriam's Cup**, invitational exhibit organized by Ma'yan (Jewish Women's Project), 92nd St Y, New York NY / 1997
- **Hallowed Objects**, Ontario Crafts Council travelling exhibition of liturgical art / 1989
- **Designed by Commission**, inaugural exhibit, Harbourfront, Toronto ON / 1983
- **Faith and Form**, Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture, Washington DC 1982

Selected professional and volunteer activities

- First **artist-in-residence** at Kol HaOt, Jerusalem, Israel / 2017
- Artist participant in **Shema & Iqra': The Jewish-Muslim Text Project** / since 2014
- **Designing, spearheading, and directing Torah Stitch By Stitch**, an international project of people from many spiritual and cultural backgrounds joining hands and hearts and holy texts. A registered not-for-profit corporation aimed at promoting cooperation and understanding, and celebrating the beauty of the human spirit / since 2013
- **Artist in Residence**, Temple Sinai Congregation, Toronto ON / since 2015
- **Artist in Residence**, Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto ON / 2012-15
- **Organized arts-focussed tour of Japan** / 2009
- Designed and edited Volunteer Association **Handbook for Textile Museum of Canada** / 2009
- **Ketubah designs** for Ketubah, Ketubah (Toronto ON) and Gallery Judaica (Los Angeles CA) / since 2009
- Felted Footwear workshop at **Bata Shoe Museum**, Toronto ON / 2008
- **Trainer for Elections Ontario and Elections Canada** / since 2007
- **Faculty at Sir Sandford Fleming College**, Haliburton ON / 2006-11
- **Organized Jewish Heritage tour of Morocco** / 2005
- Spearheaded **Tzedakah Boxes project** of UJA Federation (Toronto); proceeds used to put artists in schools / 2004-5
- Healing Hands Quilt, a **project of Israeli and Palestinian women and children** / 2002-3
- Sabbatical years **living in Jerusalem**, Israel / 2002-3, 2012
- **Costume designs and fabrication for The Mikado**, for the Jerusalem English-Speaking Theatre / 2002
- **Reviewing exhibits and books for Fusion magazine** / 2002-4
- Member of **Cultural Services and Allocations Committee**, UJA/Federation / 2001-5
- Conceived, researched, designed and wrote **Directory of Synagogue Artists** / 1999
- **Textile Museum of Canada**: volunteer, Shadow Box artist, Volunteer Association treasurer (2010-15) / since 1998
- **Director, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition**; member of jury and chair of Events committee / 1996-2010
- Subject of a **documentary feature on CBC Television**, Sunday Arts and Entertainment / 1993
- **Ontario Crafts Council**; served in various capacities on committees and board / 1986-2001
- Coordinator, **Sukkah Project**, an installation artwork by more than 50 stitchers working over 4500 hours / 1985-9

- **York University Faculty of Education**, developed and taught programme in textiles to art specialists / 1984
- **Founder and executive officer, Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles**, Toronto / 1982-91
- **Canada Studies Foundation**, Toronto/Montreal group; developed curriculum materials relating Canadian art and literature in English and French / 1971-4
- **Jarvis Collegiate, teaching** at various times English, art, computers; cooperative education coordinator / 1970-2001

Selected awards

- Canada Council for the Arts and Landfall Trust: residency in Newfoundland / 2008
- Craftsman's Grant, Ontario Arts Council / 2002
- Spertus Judaica Prize; prestigious biennial international award; with Dorothy Ross / 2000
- "Fonts in Use", P22 Fonts company / 2000
- Honourable Mention, Scholarship Awards, Ontario College of Art / 1985
- Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, for Temple Emanu-El Wedding Canopy / 1982
- Ontario Graduate Fellowship for post-baccalaureate study / 1968

Selected publications

- Lila Sarick, "Project reveals the Torah stitch by stitch", *Canadian Jewish News*, p 38, October 2 / 2014
- Shira Friedman, "Religious Feminism" in David Sperber, *Fringes: Jewish Art Periphery*, Bar- Ilan Press / 2010
- *500 Judaica*, Lark Books / 2010
- Rahel Museah, "Spiritual Fabric", *Hadassah Magazine*, September pp 64-70 / 2007
- Temma Gentles, "Stories from the Geniza", *Vox Feminarum*, Vol. 3 # 2 / 2003
- Linda Matchan, "Judaic Art Evolves", *Boston Globe* feature, December 6 / 2001
- Swartz and Wolfe, ed., *From Memory to Transformation*, Toronto: Second Story Press / 1998
- Ann McPherson, "Ceremony and Craft", cover and feature article, *Ontario Craft*, Summer / 1996
- Mae Rockland Tupa, *The New Work of Our Hands*, Radnor PA: Chilton / 1994
- Bradfield, Pringle, Ridout, *Art of the Spirit: Contemporary Canadian Fabric Art*, Dundurn Press / 1992
- Kathryn Salomon, *Jewish Ceremonial Embroidery*, London: Batsford / 1987
- Temma Gentles, "The artist as Worker: a real-life drama", *CraftNews*, February / 1985
- Frank Rasky, " Tallis Lady is now a leading Judaica textile artist", *The Canadian Jewish News*, December / 1982

Selected collections

- Ohel Moshe Synagogue and Museum, Shanghai China
- David and Rosalyn Moss, Jerusalem
- Boston Women's Archives, Boston MA
- Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum
- Phillip and Sylvia Spertus, Austin TX
- Coopers and Lybrand, Toronto ON

Education

- Associate of the Ontario College of Art (A.O.C.A.), concentration in Design / 1985
- Master of Arts (English and Russian), University of Toronto / 1970
- Bachelor of Education (HSA Type A, English and Russian), University of Toronto / 1970